THE IRISH PROBLEM.

LATE DEFEAT OF THE GLADSTONE MINISTRY. BE GLADSTONE THE VICTIM OF HIS OWN RHETORIC THE EDUCATIONAL GRIEVANCE GREATLY EXAG-GERATED-VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS EX-AMINED.

PROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. DUBLIN, March 15 .- Another British Cabinet has seen wrecked on the rocks of the "Irish Difficulty." The strongest Government that ever dealt with Irish estions, the Government that did more than all the Governments that preceded it to abolish the erils entailed by conquest and persecution, has gone to the bottom in a sea scarcely ruffled by a breeze, in sight of land, in the presence almost of multitudes who wished it a prosperous voyage, and would have saved it. The captain steered the vessel right into the breakers, always caused by the Irish rocks, just as if she was insured for ten times the amount of the cargo, and he was bribed to get rid of her! If there had been a little storm, leaving a swell that made the Irish breakers look more threatening, it was a storm of Mr. Gladstone's own making; and really never was the death of a ship's crew more

Mr. Gladstone may be regarded as the victim of his own rhetoric. His Ministry died of the "Upas tree." This tree was the topic of his powerful orations addressed to the electors of Lancashire in his ttiperant appeals at the last general election. It had three branches: Protestant Ascendency, Landlord Oppression, and Educational Disability, the latter ing a real religious grievance, "scandalously bad." The removal of the Church Establishment, be was the first British statesman who had even the courage to attempt, or the power to effect. He undertook the gigantic task and succeeded nobly. Others had tried the Land question, but all had ignomimously failed. None of the pretenders could bend the bow of Ulysses. Mr. Gladstone did it, as be had done everything, with ease. To establish Religious Equality instead of the ascendency of a small sect over a nation-of thousands over millions, maintained in virtue of invasion, slaughter, burning desolution, and configuration, and wrought by ages of usage and conflict into the framework of the Constitution-was a glorious achievement. To rescue 60 or 70 millions sterling of property belonging of right to the tenants from the grasp of the landlords, who held it iniquitously by laws of their own making, and made it the instrument of their political and social domination, was a work fully as difficult, scarcely less glorious, and certainly not less beneficial to the country. Both together these measures constituted a great revolution, putting an end to a system of injustice entailed by confiscation and persecution, and, though much mitigated by previous legislation, still grievously embittering the relations of social and political life.

But the third limb of the upas, the Educational grievance, though originally the worst part of the penal code, was greatly exaggerated in Mr. Gladstene's imagination. It had been from time to time almost entirely out away, and the remnant of the poisonous trunk might have been quietly removed, by carrying out a little further principles already in operation. The laws passed in the eighteenth century against the education of Catholics were bad enough, but not half as pernicious as the education provided for them by Primate Boulter and the Irish Parliament. Mr. Froude says that the system of the Charter Schools was the most admirable the world had till then seen. If so it only proves that the Ascendency System was so diabolically vicious that its handling turned the best of blessings into the worst of curses. From the day that their abominations were exposed by Howard, the philanthropist, till the withdrawal of the Government grant early in the present century, they produced evil only, and bishops and the masters were clergymen, Commission after Commission. Inspector after Inspector, told the same horrid story of cruelty, starvation, slavery, ignorance, degradation, dirt, vice, and dissome No reform could be effected. Masters might be dismissed by the score, but their successors were no better than those they supplanted. With few exceptions they all succumbed to the moral plague. and if abuses were dammed for a brief season, the streams of corruption broke through with increased force and more detestable foulness. Even their Sub-Clerical Inspectors were obliged to acknowledge the astonishing contrast, physical, intellectual, and moral, presented by the Roman Catholic children in the hedge-schools and private pay-schools that flourished beside the Government institutions, when the penal laws were relaxed or repealed. Of all the exment of Ireland the hateful Charter Schools were the most signal failure, because they violated nature most outrageously by taking away the children from their parents, and shutting them up in boarding esbodies or souls, and everything to develop and foster

But more enlightened views of a more Christian spirit began to prevail in the early part of this century : and a number of gentlemen of different denominations, including Catholics, founded a society for the education of the poor in Ireland. ciety got a Parliamentary grant, and, from the place of its meeting, it was known as "The Kildare-st. Society." There it had its model schools, its training schools for teachers, and there it issued its excellent school-books, maps, &c. It required the reading of the Scriptures by Roman Catholies, but they were allowed to have the Donay Testament, without note and comment. With this mixed system the Roman Catholic prelates were for years contented, and priests, as well as Catholic laymen, worked cordially with their Protestant countrymen. But it could not have been regarded as permanently satisfactory, because it was contrary to the principles of the Church of Rome to allow the laity, especially children, the use of the Scriptures without clerical guidance in their study. The way, however, was prepared for the establishment, by the late Lord Derby, of the "National System," which has now flourished for 40 years, though opposed and anothematized by each of the churches in turn. It is founded on the principle of "United Secular Education," combined with separate religious instruction. This principle was fully sanctioned by the hierarchy of that time. Archbishop Murray was one of the commissioners, and worked most harmoniously with Archbishop Whately and the other Protestants on the Board till his death. Bishop Denvir of Down and Connor was also a commissioner, until the Pope or Dr. Cullen compelled him to retire. The late Primate Crolly was a warm supporter of the principle of united education. So also was the late Bishop Doyle. Indeed the National System fully realized all that the hierarchy had demanded, until Cardinal Cullen came with his ultramontane pretensions and restless aggressions. As it is, the Catholics enjoy about fourfifths of the grant, which amounts to £474,055. Total since 1831, £7,342,356. There is nothing of the upas here. If there is it bears an abundance of very welcome fruit.

schools, royal and diocesan, on which there was a commission about 12 years ago, and which, after long inquiry, recommended that they should be thrown open to Roman Catholics, as they were originally inthem with a grant, so as to have a complete system of high schools for all denominations, on the united principle, and it should have accompanied or preceded the Queen's Colleges. But it was strangely and culpably neglected, not only by Sir Robert Peel's Government, but by every Liberal Government that followed. The Queen's Colleges are founded on the same united principle as the primary schools, with every possible safeguard for the consciences of Roman Catholics and others, and a careful provision by The grants of Residence," selected by the authorities of their religious instruction and direction by Themson of Residence," selected by the authorities of their respective churches. Roman Catholic stated on the firm the firm the firm the firm the firm the grant provision of Catholic state of the colleges as "Godless," and "density after the delivery, and resulted in its adoption of the same united principle as the primary schools, with the fall the fall that when he formed the North German Confederation he went to Switzeriand the North German Confederation he went to Switzeriand the committee.

Like every theragrangement of words. Thiers's wise discourse, looking before and after, is open to various discourse, looking before and after, is open to various and prematives chosen by the population of the large and aroung discourse, looking before and after, is open to various discourse, looking before and after, is open to various discourse, looking before and after, is open to various discourse, looking before and after, is open to various and interpretations by passionate and ingenious commentations of the large and aroung and after its open to various discourse and interpretation of what was essentiant of what was essential of least that when he formed words, the North German Parliament he substituted as and the strength was a state in the special spirit in Germany, but this will be empty of the strength provision of the affirmative and in the America from the Contents and the strength provision of the English an tended for the whole people. This could have been

There is a number of endowed intermediate

stances considered—have been remarkably suc-

stances considered—have been remarkably successful.

The College of Maynooth was established in 1736, from no leve to Catholicism, but from State policy. Those were revolutionary times; and the priests, who had been obliged to seek education abroad, returned with no great fondness for the paternal Government of George 141. Up to 1835 the College received an annual grant of nearly £9,000. The grant was always entered in the "Irish Estimates," and for many years the late Mr. Spooner, and after him Mr. Whalley, made a motion to have the sum struck out, which led to an irritating debate on the doctrines and moral principles for the propagation of which the Protestant tax-payers were obliged to pay. The late Sir Robert Peel, to avoid this evil, brought in a bill, which was passed (8 and 9 Virt., c. 25), making the endowment permanent, and placing it beyond the reach of debate on the consolidated fund. It was arranged that the college should accommodate 539 students, who should have "commons," i.e., board, as well as education, at the expense of the State. The grant was thenceforth £26,300 per annum, and there was a lump sum of £30,000 for buildings in addition. When the Irish Church act was passed, the College of Maynooth got £372,331 as compensation for the withdrawal of the grant. This the inerarchy has got absolutely, without being subject to visifation, or any sort of responsibility. Considering the nature of the teaching of Maynooth, and of the text-books tonching heretical, or "atheistical Governments"—to adopt the Pope's phrase—it cannot be said that the British Parliament has acted very illiberally toward the Irish Catholies in the matter of education, especially if we allow for the almost uniform hostility of the young priests to the Government at contested elections. This is surely not a religious grievamee, "scandalously bad."

Let us see how the different denominations now stand, under the system of religious equality in the matter of cierical education. The Church of Rome.

Let us see how the different denominations now stand, under the system of religious equality in the matter of elerical education. The Church of Rome, as I have just said, has not under the late Act, £372,331, with all the buildings erected at the cost of the State. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, which comprises nearly half the Protestant population, has not £43,976 as compensation for £1,750, which was paid for six professors, all theological, in a college quite distant from the Queen's College, Belfast. The Dublin University, which has an average of 1,200 students, enjoys an income from land amounting to £36,000 a year, and earns £27,000 in fees. She has sizarships and scholarships, which may be won by hard study; but she does not, nor does the Presbylerian Church, give gratuitous education to the ministry, as the State enables Maynooth to do. In this most important point, therefore, Rome is a specially favored church.

Queen's colleges belong to Roman Catholics quite as much as to Protestants. Sir Robert Kane, a Catholic, was one of the first Presidents appointed; and the first President of Galway College was actually a priest. Catholics may and do graduate in the Queen's College and in the Dublin University; the most eminent men among them at the bar have done so; or they may, and do graduate in the London University, which sends Examiners to their own halls to enable them to qualify on the spot. Altogether Catholics have as many young men, or very nearly as many, receiving a University education nearly as many, receiving a University education as their social condition can well afford. Of course, separating Trinity College and keeping it apart for theology and ministerial training. This the gov-erning body were ready and quite anxious to do, throwing open to Roman Catholics the professor-ships and fellowships, the ruling power, and all its prightees so that this new element might be absorbed in the Academic system and grow into it, as it were, while maintaining its identity and its splendid historic prestige. Of all the institutions planted by the English in Ireland the University is planted by the English in Ireland the University is the most successful. It is the only one of which all parties are proud. It owes this singular presiminence, this unique glory, to its independence—to its recog-nizing, honoring, and rewarding merit alone. It has always been free from the maniplation and contagion of the Government and from control of political parties. It is a grand old tree, which has "stood the battle and the breeze" for three conturnes, strik-ing its roots deep in the soil of every county in Ireland, enabling many a poor scholar to wear the expuse and the miter—to sit with princes.

Ing its roots deep in the son of vect, county in frehand, enabling many a poor scholar to wear the ermine and the miter—to sit with princes.

Was it not strange and lamentable that Mr. Glad-stone, of all men, should go forth with his ax and strike at the root of that tree? Can we wonder that all enlightened England should cry. "Woodman, spare it?" He might prane it; he might graft some for-eign shoots upon it; be might make its fruit and its eaves available for the healing of the nation, re-using to know anything but the nation in this mat-er; but to root it up and change its nature and taking. And all to destroy a branch of the has no existence now, and to meet a demand to which in fact he turned a deaf car, for the Bishops which in fact he turned a deaf car, for the Bishops has no existence which a deaf car, for the Isisnops have told him again and again that what they want is money money, money to educate Catholies by themselves and in their own way. There are some interesting considerations connected with the Catholic University and its claims to be endowed and chartered, which I must reserve for another

FRENCH TOPICS.

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT THIERS BEFORE THE AS SEMBLY-VOTE ON THE CONSTITUENT POWER OF THE ASSEMBLY-THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAIL-WAY INVESTIGATION - LETTER FROM FATHER

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TERBUNE. Paris, March 5.-The event of the time is the speech delivered by M. Thiers yesterday. It is an admirable feat of strength and skill. So far as one man could. and more ably than any other man could, he has given an intelligible interpretation of the bill of the Committee of Thirty, as clear and authoritative as the ambiguity of its terms will allow. If anything is evident in this bill it is the purpose at least of its framers to keep Thiers out of the House and dimmish the influence of his eloquence when in it. And yet it is the House itself which after conning to de Broglie's elegantly indefinite commentary in shape of a report, and listening and efusing to listen for four days to combatant interpreters on all sides, called on him from all sides to enter the oratorical arena. With characteristic shrewdness he though he had put out his best man a little before, Minister Dufaure, to fill his place as Government is terpreter. The speech of M. Thiers lasted two hours, and is a masterpiece of long-labored thought and rhetorical skill. Very peculiar care and skill were needed to speak plainly and with a certain anthority his own opinions, without rritating the excited passions of some of the many parties into which his auditors are divided and of

none of which he is pet or partisan.

The nominal question in debate was the preamble of
the bill, which "fully reserves to the Assembly its inherent constituent power." The real questions, the answers to which were awaited with palpitating interest, were what view the Government held of the relation of this preamble to that article s of the bill which empowers the Government to present these organic laws; to what extent it regarded those laws as in their nature constitutional or constituent. Conciliatory in tone to all parties, but firm in tone and of largely patriotic spirit the President drew, from a lucid summary of the political and material history of France since the war, an impressive statement of the actual condition of parties and wants and prospects of the nation, the following

main conclusions:

Since February, 1871, a very great and ardnous work has been done, and on the whole well done, for the restoration of the country from its then low and distracted estate. It has been done in the name of a Republican government, the title of whose chief is President of the French Republic, who accepted the Republican form as a deposit, when entering upon office, which he gave promise be keep intact while in office. It and his promise he will keep inviolate. But this great good work (turning a little to the Right) has been done in large part by the Sovereign Assembly, as the form and title were accepted by it in virtue of a compromise of parties known as the Pact of Bordeaux, which the President still holds to, and which still leaves open the future and the definitive form and style of the government of France. But meantime to the Left a little now—though mainly always looking to the Genters! the Republic does crist as the working government of France, and needs not proclaiming, but in the common interest toward to the whole people, a better working organization. As public does exist as the working government of rand needs not preciaiming, but in the common interest and needs not preciaiming, but in the common interest of the whole people, a better working organization. As long as I have anything to do with it dooking toward the Center, with a kindly glance toward the Right agent, but over his spectacles and his immediate auditors, broadly out in trustful appeal to patriotic Frenchmen at large,) it will be a Conservative Republic, as you will be persuaded when the organic laws are presented. Therefore—the definitive and the future, which are dependent, under God, on prudence and sagnety, are dependent, under God, on prudence and sagnety, are dependent the bill and preample as it comes from the

I am apt to admit this conclusion, provisionally. This much, at lowest, seems as well ascertained as anything in the political French future can be-for the present. The Monarchists have lost heart; the coalition of Orleanists and Legitimists, which held so remarkably long and strong together from Nevember to February is sadly broken past speedy re-cementing, and they have pretty well made up what goes for their minds to die their death as Assemblymen when the Prussians leave the territory. But as most of them are earnestly devoted to the salvation of France and society, which desired consummation can only be effected by their sitting ber" to be erected, many of them, especially those of candidates at the next election. It is a little curiousexceedingly illogical with their "principles," but in the forced logic of the "situation"-that they should so in sist on the assertion in the famous preamble upon the "integral reservation of an inherent constituent power" (theoretical right), reserved purely in the interest of a proclamation of monarchy, which it is evident this Assembly cannot practically exercise. The consequence fatally is that the next general elections must take on a pictuseltous character, that the leading question for electors to pronounce on will be not the legislative fitness but the monarchical or republican opinion of candidates. There will be anyappeal by Menarchists to a democracy they detest to arbitrate against itself in a quarrel of divine right they cannot settle among themselves by popular vote, which they can't shide, and by whose decision they won't abide, if they can help it.

Father Hyacinthe sends to public print a letter addressed to some private friend in these days, apropos of his acceptance of a call to preach to a small congregation of 300 Catholic souls in Geneva. The sum of his letter is, that the call and the causes that brought it to interance are only accidentally cotemporaneous with the pointico-religious unpleasantnesses that have brought about the legal expulsion of Monseigneur Mermiliod from Geneva. He goes to preach, himself always a faithful Catholic, to a few faithful at Geneva. Neither they nor he confound fidelity to the Catholic Church with servility to a mistaken, arrogant acatorry of Popeism.

AMERICAN MANNERS CRITICISED.

COMMENTS IN GERMANY ON PRESIDENT GRANT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS-HIS LANGUAGE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED-ITS INFLUENCE ON THE FRIENDS OF AMERICA.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Berlin, March 12 .- It appears that about the honr at which Prince Bismarck was standing by Mr. Basecroft's hospitable table to propose the health of the President of the United States, the President of the United States himself was standing in the presence of the German Envoy and sneering at the form of govern ment which that gentleman represents. In this con trast is shown the different notions of propriety which prevail respectively with our republican Presi I shall doubtless be accused of want of patriotism if drawn. It is drawn-and drawn very effectively-in burger Zeitung, which reflects the German sentiment in the Russian capital, I read this morning the calm observ ation that if kings have not that high legitimacy which Gen. Grant assigns to the republic alone, they have a east a better idea of what is exacted by good manners. This is the line of treatment adopted by most of the

The traditions of politics in Germany, even more than n other European States, attach great solemnity to official utterances. I do not speak of the sovereign alone, who is of course a mere creature of etiquette. but of ministers and Parliamentary leaders, who keep silence when there is no occasion for speaking, and who when they speak, weigh their words with the mos expressions equivalent to those attributed to the Presi dent's inaugural address would be a moral impeso gress a breach of propriety. But very slight importance is attached to what Gen. other American politician says. A general agreement seems to be reached to treat American official utterances just as they are treated by the preverent gamins of the Sixth Ward. We are fought only with sneers, irony, and ridicule. I have yet to learn how the President's heroics were received at disgust of Americans domiciled here, whose sensibilities by the irresponsible language of your politicians. In he ought to proceed differently. The cause of free trate who seems to illustrate the theory that the boon in question is incompatible with a belief in the responsi

The Kreuz Zeitung, alone of the German pro the manifesto seriously. The Krenz Zeilung I may remark is not so well acquainted with American politics a some of its cotemporaries. It thought therefore, and and that President Grant's observations on the comparative merits of different forms of government they did honor to the author's phifosophical studieswere impertment and insulting to all monarchichal nquired whether such powers ought longer to keep up diplomatic relations with such a Government. The Kölnische Zeilung came nearer to the public view. It had a column on what it calls " Ulysses Grant's Identity was," and went on in a strain of gentle irony to ampaily the President's ideas. It pictured to itself the corrup civilization of Germany giving way before the lofty republican virtue of Tweed and Murphy, and Oakes Ames with his Crédit Mobilier installed in the palace of the Hehenzollerns. It figured a brighter future when the annexation of Santo Domingo and the Sandwich Islands shall have undone the work of the Tower of Rabel; and the choice English of your carpet-bagger shall have driven away the language of Racine and Goethe. I give you the spirit and substance of the The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, the semi-official organ of Bismarck, was more served. The report of the New-Orleans outbreak came the same day that this journal made its comments and it simply quoted the dispatch and duly questioned the expediency of adopting that sort of thing in order to reap the blessings of republican freedom. Still another journal the name of which I have forgotten, was deeply streeted by the President's efforts to assist the "Great Maker" in the spread of the English language. In short, the inaugural address is attracting rather a wide no-toriety in the Fatherland. I could eite other journals, but those to which I have referred will give you a notion of the reflections stirred in the German misd by the President's Idealismus.

There are in Germany three great classes which are favorably inclined toward the United States. The Bis morek interest courts America for purely political easons; the literary and professional classes envy our stellectual freshness and freedom; the lower people have many domestic and personal motives for looking up te us. It is therefore unfortunate that the recent course of affairs in America should be calculated, in distinct ways, to offend all three. How can we claim the sym pathy of German scholars and thinkers if we can pre sent no better spectacle than that of forty million people hasing the Almighty Dollar at the price of honor, truth,

and most of the other virtues?

Let me, however, in justice to the President, devote a paragraph to a journal by which he is better treated. Even as I write, the Allgemeine (Augsburg) Zeitung eaches my table, with a Berlin letter on the very sub ject of the President's inaugural address. The writer is shocked at the untitness of the occasion which the President chose for sounding the praises of the Universal Republic, and amused by his argumentation about Santo Domingo and the Great Maker's plans for the union of tongues; but he makes some observations in a graver strain. He thinks that there is going on in Europe a movement which points mamistak-ably to the republic. It is not the revolutionary movement, such as introduces the republic in Spain and France. It is rather a slow and peaceful progress, through reforms in parliamentary government, local independence, extension of the suffrage; and it is smultamens in Eugland, Italy, Austria, and Germany. Prince Bismarck giories in the fact that when he formed the North German Confederation he went to Switzerland

THE FASHIONS.

SPRING OPENING DAYS.

THE TRANSITION AGE IN TOILETTE-MEDIEVAL STYLES REVIVED-ODD STYLES IN NEW BONNETS, MATE-RIALS, FLOWERS, AND ORNAMENTATION-IM-PORTED COSTUMES IN SILKS AND BATISTE-LINEN

GOODS-BRIDAL COSTUMES. It is amazing how much more sedulously we note transitions in national costumes than the moral influences from which they are deduced. Changes in fashion are carefully recorded in our books; changes in morals or forms rarely or never. We dilate upon rails and periwigs, and laugh at the primitive days of the fourteenth century, suggestive of health and long Yet, while the fashious of that period are being revived to a certain degree, the moral and temwe gliding back in fashions days, that before many years medieval days. fairest American belies will be arrayed in the stiffest farthingales bequeathed to posterity by the pencil of Velasquez. Private letters from Paris yield us the appalling information that skirts are being nade so scanty that one can scarcely step in them waists are apologies for waists, and crinoline as well as the tournurs have entirely disappeared. To this con-summation have we not yet arrived, but our time will arely approach, since Paris rules the world, despite the efforts of American modistes and American ladies to invent fashions. The exquisite taste of enitured, thorurh-bred American women is beyond criticism, yet they cannot produce, they cannot arrive at the inimtable magic ideas of a Varot, however minute their directions. A certain charming American in Paris was in love with a bonnet so chaste, so divine, that to see was to possess or die.

" Four hundred francs, madame," smiled the mediste. "Four hundred francs! What a price for that simple thing, which you could make in half an hour." "Ah, but madame will remember it cost me three

nights' sleep to imagine it."

The opening day of the season came off as usual last week in a tempest of rain and wind, and so the backward ness of the season creates a succession of openings. nets are the oddest, quaintest things imaginable; on can scarcely yet realize that they will be become There are clouds of vaporous Malines lace in blue and pink, long streamers of ribbon, and quantities of flowers. These are the ornaments of round hats, so to speak, and conets the only difference existing in the absence of presence of strings. The shapes are the reappearance the Rabagas, modified; the Medici, the Gipsy, and many others, all partaking of the Rabagas; there are, too, charming, eccentric Embens hats, with great broad ims, and the aristocratic Castillan hat, like the Peak Teneriffe, with ever so little table land on the top, as cal, as coquetish, and as piquant as pyramidal, as beautiful, as bizarre, and dear, as it is cheap. This Cas illian is trimmed near the summit with long plumes of ock's-feathers, and turned up at the side in a most uncompromisingly brigandish way.

One of Virot's most exquisite hats is in Malines lace, the rolled back broad brim is lined with a torsude of pale pink ribbon (the bonnet is blue), the flowers massed at the back of Marguerites, forget-me-nots; mosses in which nestie rosy buds, and a cloud of Malines blue lace deending at the back. Very rustic and Watteau shepherdess-like, is an ecru or unbleached chip. Inside the broad upturned brim, is a wreath of pale blush roses, ne loops and strings simply black mousseline ribbon. The Medici has an abundance of brim, in a rather square roof over the brow; each side is turned up against the rown : behind, the brim is finished off in a point. plature of hat and bonnet is a hybrid, but by such wonterfully pretty hybrids one cannot but be fascinated. There are other bonnets in all of these shapes of silk in materials, straw is more fashionable than anything else. he unbleached or corn chip, and fine split English and Belgian straw, black straw, black chip exquislely fine and lighter than lace, and straws colored in the gray-green clive, and all shades elicate browns and grays. There are also black lace esters of flowers in the new himon tint, a green-yellow, exceedingly becoming to a brunette. One levely bennet was formed entirely of light blue polkn dotted Malines ace; inside the brim was an entire wreath of tea-roses, green mossy foliage. A stately Leghorn Rabagas, with the most fautastic brim imaginable, was trimined with scariet poppies, wild-flowers, a bird's gorgeous wing, and bandeau of brown gros grain, with frill of ecru lace Chantilly. A scarffell at the back to correspond. Bonnets are placed quite far back on the head, fully exposing the forehend and front hair; that they do not fall off is a profound mystery to the uninitiated. Little capes

are a tenture this season, but are nearly invisible Lace is used in great profusion, and a past fashion is revived in lace strings which are fastened below the chin with a little bonquet, or perhaps a velvety pansy, a violet and geranium leaf, or some such pretty conceit. All bonnets of whatever shape must sides, the ornamentation ceither back or front. It is impossible to imagine anything nearer the perfection of art than the flowers. One involuntarily bends over the great boxes in some magazine of fashion, to inhale the perfumed breaths exhaling from these counterfeit presentments" of Nature's sweetest children. Nor are we condemned altogether to the more stately and aristocratic of the beautiful flowers; out such as were cultivated in the olden times, in quain old-fashioned odorous gardens for healing purposes as well as pleasure, in sweet pea and pinks and " old man and blue bells, violets, hyacinths, and heliotrope, and rosemary, with starry daisies and forget-me-nots, golden-eyed pansies, snowy orchid and pale blue myosotis, bunches of woody cedar and cool little lilies of the valley, feathery fronds and graceful ferns nearly exhaling the atmosphere of the woody dells, and fresh

blown roses washed by dew. One would think that the lovely flowers were sufficient adornment to content the spirit. Not so Fashion, for she takes us back to medieval days, and introduces for bonnets ornaments in oxidized silver, in finest chasing and elaborate fret-work of shields, poignards, buckles, odd birds with spread wings, clasps, helmets and anchors, and quaint medallions connected by silver hains one to the other; stars, ferns in the finest flagree, thistles for slides and greaves, and other designs copied accurately from the spears, battle-axes, and ornaments used by the knights of the fourteenth century at their tournaments. As we wear the ornaments of those days on our bonnets, we may also come to the short swords, like dangers, worn by the ladies of that age, hanging across the breast. It seems to us that self-protection is quite as necessary in these days as then.

Of less warlike air is a beautiful ornament for bonnets in Vielle argent, representing a comb of the old grand dame fashion, very high back and exquisitely chased and filagree; and there are similar ornaments in jet both for the hair and bonnets. Jets are largely interwoven in half wreaths, coronets, comb-backs, sprays, birds' wings, and every imaginable fantastic shape; and these with the Mousseline ribbon introduced in the nn for the first time, are the principle features for hend-gear. The Mousseline ribbon, as we predicted, has ecome immensely popular, because from its softness it does not crease or spiit as does the heavier gros grain the edges are satin and both sides alike. One is filled with bewilderment among the imported costumes, and the silks in marvelously beautiful shades lying heaped in richest confusion-the pale amber, the ghosts of shades in pink and salmon and faint foam green and lavender and sad olive, and nnereal cypress, with the hundred-and-one se tones and neutral tints and tiny stripes and polka dots-simply hideous are these moon-faced polka iots-and Japanese figures and "variations." Fade tints are absolute. Pretty and delicate as they are, we begin slightly to weary of them as of some faded passe belle of society in comparison with the fresh rosy beauty of youth, and to copy Nature, who abbers staty neutral tints. We take Nature's Muller and grindjup topages and emeraids and rubies and amethysts and sapphires and lumps of pure yellow gold to produce a right roya Tyrian dye of purple. Like stray cruisers, we fish in the ashionable waters ready to book on to any flotsam and jetsam of old-faspioned bright colors that may be float-

Husbands and papas there are who take a grim satisfaction in the fact that siiks are greatly reduced in price; but the truth must be told, the cheapness of the silks makes ladies insist upon having extra qualities, or two dresses in lieu of one; so the little problem of economy may be discussed at leisure. Among the most unique and artistic ideas in making up costumes, that of two or more shades united has been the most successful. Everybody takes to it; those who are surfeited from embarrassment of riches because more money can be expended; those who simply love the charming blending of soft and tender tints embodied in some sunset skies, and those who have the ineffable comfort of using up two or more worn dresses by placing them harmomously together. The ready-made costumes are increasing yearly in popularity; the most expensive, varying in pricest from \$200 up to \$1,000, find ready sale.

There is a certain charm, or chic about these for eign-made robes that our domestic dress-makers fail in; in this lies the popularity. A magnificent cos-tume of two shades, the shimmer of golden bronze, artistically biending with gleams of that balf-sorrowful, hazy, olive hue, made a whole so luxurious, that it was cheap at \$600. All plainer suits of linen, percaies, Japanese silks, poplins, as well as black silks, are made up by our own establishments; but we would conscientiously advise ladies who purchase these suits to take the troubic to first measure the width of the skirts, for last year, upon trial, many were found quite useless without exnsive alterations from extreme scantiness, and as our text reads, fashious are followed more closely that morals. Fresh importations of Paris and Berlin-made costumes arrive weekly, each apparently more elegant than the other. Basques, and aprons, polonaises, and very much ruffled skirts rival each other so successfully that every one must perforce be satisfied. Basques of this season are simply perfection in shape and fit, not at all claborate, nor are there the usual postilion plaits at the back; the figure is perfectly undisguised in this charming new shape, the ideal of simplicity. The basque over the hips is cut in a variety of shapes, square divided into lappels, or shaped exquisitely and merely opened at the back over the toursure. The simulated vest is preserved in this basque; in others it is doublebreasted. The sleeves are coat-shaped, with deep ouffs. Another sleeve is just such as we see in time-honored engravings of the dames of Washington's Court and portraits of our foremothers-a graceful sleeve, nearly tight to the cibow and falling into a deep, plaited flounce or ruffles, a band of trimming at the elbow. A very stylish basque, the Pion-Pion, is made of the dark fabric forming the dress; the vest sleeves are light, also the heavy cording or piping around it. The Louis Quinze is again made up, with its quaint, long basque front and square vest, and short behind. A novelty added to the nev polonaises is a little cellar. Panier puffs are revived, but will scarcely be popular, as they crush too easily and spoil the effect of a handsome toilette. A dark purple blue of the shade called Napoleon was made up in a suit upon exnibition, in some fine wool goods in strange and too strong contrast of buff or eers. The polonaise was belted and trimmed, the cuffs, revers, sashes and collar with foru lace and bands of feru challi. There was a deep bias flounce scantily gathered; this too had headings and folds of foru. The costume possessed style, yet was rather too prononce. The front breadths continue to be trimmed quite differently from the rest of the skirt. The most eccentric and fanciful designs can be followed without attracting attention. A very elegant costume of migniouette green was trimmed on the front breadth with narrow ruffles, arranged like the volutes of a shell, as if passing around it quite up to the waist; behind were five or six very deep side plaitings of intermingled dark and light shades; the basque was very deep at the sides, finishing off with large bows and such ends quite covering the tournure; the vest was light silk, fastened with massive cut-steel buttons. The two well contrasting colors of Napoleon bine and gray make very distingué

Some of the costumes are remarkable for side trim-nings of folds or puffings, flounces or ruffles in front. Some of the costumes are remarkable for side trimings of folds or numnes, shounces or ruffles in front, surmonuted by deep pullings and very deep flounces behind. Another style possesses a long apron made entirely of lengthwise pulls, each pull ending in a scallop, and the entire apron trimmed around with Yak lace of the same color. The overskirt was made simply of two breadths, open half-way up the back, passing from the back around to the hips only; a Plon-Plon basque accompanied this suit.

back around to the hips only; a Pleu-Plen basque accompanied this suit.

Some of these delicate silks are beautiful beyond mere pen description. The shimmering light cast through the woof is like the pale aurora faintly streaked with gray and palest blue; others look as if moonight had been caught and prisoned in the silvery meshes, and the delicate violet is intermixed with a richer tining. Bie Mar-ripe corn-made its appearance in the Autumn, and with two hundred other shades of veillow was at once dedicated to bright brunctics. This season brings us yet another tint in limon, a greenish yellow, which, mingled abundantly with black lace, would make a most becoming costume. Again there is a creamy pink of tea-rose shading, and, a faint blue green sometimes seen in Summer sunsets; this is also reproduced in the brighter peacock colors. The good fairnes who watch over the destines of brides The sets forming the bridal coiffure, bonquet for cor-sage, and gariand, come in boxes delicately perfumed, at prices varying from \$50 to \$100. For the conflure is a lovely bonquet placed on the left side, from which a graceful vine droops among the curls or puffs of hair. Pretty and inexpensive bridal robes are exhibited at \$50, complete, made of fine mushin, beautifully em-oroidered. These need not be laid away with the time-honored custom of bridal robes, for they can be used afterward for charming Summer drosses for watering-place balls and other uses, as slips for colored silken dresses.

The barliste polonnises, so much liked last year for their comforting coomess and delicacy, are largely imported again. Many of these are embroidered in Rerlin wools like the camel's hair polonaises of the Winter. The flax gray and erru batistes are embroidered in large lowers, as the field daisy, a sort of small sunflower, oak eaves and vines in wool of a darker shade; the embroidery is sometimes done in tufted spots and designs, alternatives. sen: vines of brown above.

be worn over black silk. For all batiste and linen
its come huge buttons, as "big as a platter," of pearl,
blocked pearl, Etruscan gilt and ivory; also buckles and
des of largest size. Of the more expensive styles
are button molds are covered with silk to match. sides of largest size. Of the more expensive styles large button molds are covered with silk to match. Yak lace will be used abundantly, and few more dainty fastions can be conceived for midsummer than a batisse of linest quality, than and wiry, profusely trainmed with errs Yak lace over a black or brown silk. The "Alexandra Ecdingote," a new pattern of this season, seems to be admirably adapted for all thin goods. Its peculiarity is a loose front, betted in at the back only, if preferred, the hem, recers, cuffs, colar, pocket flaps and sash of a different material and color. The sash is very wide, fastened at the side with a very long, large loop, kept in place by a nure pearl buckle, the buttons to match. This redingote can also be made up in casamere, serge, or silk. The sashes now so fashionable are three-eighths of a yard wide, fastened invariably at the left, when the dat the side. A very strong rough linen has made its appearance, to be used altogether for traveling polonaises, and a material of the character of furkish toweling is going to be very popular, but promises to be very uncomfortable. Nearly all polonaises are double-breasted, admitting of pretty cool shirt fronts and muslin chemizetes. mitting of pretty cool shirt fronts and muslin chemizettes. Black grenadines and barezes come with face stripes and brocké dots, and with trocaded stripes for over-dresses, being much cooler than the ordinary grenadine. The new vall is of gray gauze, edged with fringe of the same salar.

this.

new van is or gray gazar, edged to color.

The handkerchief vail is of dotted lace, either bordered with lace or fringe. Silver and golden arrows are much used for fastening the vail behind. White vails are obsolete. Black velvet for frimming will be very fashionable. Linen collars are giving way gradually to charming little arrangements of lace and musin, with transferred work. Clerical ties, with Valencieones lace ends, cripe de cenen fichus trimmed with lace, embroidered nock-lies, fringed, and saches of silk with proceeded ends, with these or match, are among the novel-ties. A successful tolette depends upon its accessories. As Sam Weller said regarding the veal pie, "It's the seasoning as does it."

INADEQUATE POLICE PROTECTION.

The inadequacy of local police protection,

as snown by the frequency of crime, is still a topic of earnest discussion and absorbing interest. Experience has taught that the security of property against daring purgiars and adroit swindlers depends rather upon the vigilance of owners than upon police watchfulness; but or safety of person, reliance has been customarily placed upon the paid guardians of the public peace. The alarming prevalence of highway robbery and undaunted roffianism has eveked, however, a lamentable distrust in the present efficiency of police protection, and nany reputable residents who have never carried deadly weapons before, have lately armed themselves with revolvers for self-defense detained late at night by business, or when traveling long after dark in public conveyances. The official excuse of a numerically insufficient force for the complete suppression of crime is not generally deemed ampic, as a pica of this kind will not cover a lack of disample, as a piea of this kind will not cover a lack of discipline. While it is well known that some of the beats
of policemen in the upper part of the city are so long
that hours are requisite for a single tour, it is equally
well known that many officers, instead of fathfully
patrolling their posts during the hours of night duty,
institually skulk in grog-shops, and drink and play cards
with bar-croom loaders and thieves. Residents who are
cognizant of this flagrant derelicion, and who denounce
it in private, strink from exposing the delinquents,
through fear of incurring dangerous cumity; but, though
they may wonder at the purphinancess of the responsible
officials of the Police Department, they are by no means
surprised at the consequent lawlessuces of the dangerous classes.

THE POSTAL CAR QUESTION.

A WASHINGTON VIEW OF THE QUESTION. THE POSTMANTER-GENERAL LEFT WITHOUT DISCRE

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: If the Presidents of the railroads leadng out of New-York, who have agreed among themselves to take off the postal cars, and return on the 1st of April to the old method of surging the mails in baggage cars, persist in their threatened action, the result will be to increase the time required for the transportation of mails from New-York to all parts of the East, West, and South, from 12 to 72 hours—a positive injury to almost every one who sends or receives letters or newspapers— that is to say, to every intelligent person in the country -and an injury of special gravity to all persons engaged matter of importance. The railroad companies try if make it appear that the Postmaster-General is in the wrong, and is responsible for the stoppage of rapid mail facilities. They are aware that there be a general outburst of popular nation as soon as they proceed to carry out their threat, and they naturally seek to divert it from themselves. They apparently count upon this indiguation to make itself feit in Congress next Winter, and te force that body to come to whatever terms they may insist upon. After eight months' experience of slow mails, the railroad presidents think that the people will clamor for the restoration of the postal cars at any cost. It ought to be distinctly understood how the case standbetween the railroads and the Government, that the people who are to suffer may know where to put the plame. It is not true that the Postmaster-General bar power to make an arrangement with the conspiring ompanies that will induce them to continue the service He is bound by the law of Congress, passed just before the close of the last session. This law was reported by

It is in the following terms: rease of compensation for the transportation of mails on roll be provided for roots agents to accompany and destructions that the pay per mile per annum shall not exceed the following from routes carrying their whole length an average of mails per day of 200 pounds, \$50: 50. \$55: 1.000 pounds, \$100: 1.000 p

the House Appropriations Committee after a po-

tient hearing of the agents of the railroads and of the

and the Government. But whether fair or untair it ties the hands of the Postmaster-General. He cannot pay n dollar more than it specifies. If the companies now take rengeance on the people for what they claim to be an plustice of Congress, and at a time, too, when Congress cannot meet for eight months to provide a remedy, they will commit a gross outrage. If they have not been them by the new law is not an equitable compensation for the transportation of the postal cars, let them wait till Congress meets, and then put their threat in execu-A few weeks would then suffice to adjust the difficulty. Their present purpose appears to grow out of a spirit of flagrant disregard for the convenience and rights of the public that is showing itself more and more in powerful railway corporations.

IMPGRIANCE OF THE POSTAL CAR STSTEM

The idea of the postal car is said to have been first con-served in Chicago, and was put in practice first on a road running out of that city. Its value was apparent from the start, and it was rapidly extended in the West more than in the East by reason of the greater liberality of the Western railroads. There are now as lines of road running the postal cars. So quietly has the system been introduced that there are doubtless thousands of m telligent persons who know nothing about its practical workings, and only know that for some reason or other their newspapers and letters come in less time than they used to. The Post-Office Department is constantly endeavoring to extend the system, and believes that in ourse of time it will be used upon every railroad in the transportation of the postal cars on the fastest trains in stead of on slow trains only, as is done now by most roads. The great advantage of the postal car is that it is a traveling post-office, in charge of an agent, who is in faca traveling postmaster, sorting the mail-matter and put ting it in different bags according to its' destination, while the car is in motion. Under the old system, a mail-bag could not be opened except at a post-office, and letters or papers would frequently have to be handled in three or four different offices, involving a delay of s day in each, before reaching their destination. A few instances will illustrate tufs. Let us suppose a letter mailed, under the old system, in New-York, for an interior town in Central Ohio. It would first have been sent in a bag directed to Cleveland. There it would have lain 24 hours. Its next journey would have been to Columbus, probably, where there would have been another day's delay before it could be started on the local railroad or stage to reach the town to which it was addressed. Now the two days' delay are saved, because there is no need of stopping the mail to assert it. Under the old system there were often annoying delays. It often happened that a snow blockade, by delaying trains, threw 50 tons of mail matter into Chicago and other chief distributing offices, in a single day, which it required three or four days to assort and dispatch, People living in important towns on railways would frequently get their Eastern mail from the West and their Western mail from the East. It would be carried a hundred miles beyond, perhaps, to a city, whence it would return as way mail. The new system obviates all

THE ATTITUDE OF THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT. The Postmaster-General regards the stoppage of the postal cars, if attempted, as an anjustifiable outrage upon the public, which he will feel warranted in using every means in his power to prevent. He does not indi cate what means he shall employ, but he appears to feel confident that the Government possesses the power to provide its citizens with postal facilities, and that a few railroad presidents will not long stand in the way. Too action of the presidents of the lines centering in New-York is said not to be approved by railroad men generally, and the department has been assured by many prominent officers of leading roads that, in their opinion, the recent act of Congress provides a fair componsation for mail transportation. Whether it does or not, how ever, the department must be governed by it. The quarrel of the conspiring presidents is not properly with department but with Congress. The Postmuster General has labored hard to secure them additional compensation. The increase of 50 per cent last June was made on his recommendation, but no appropriation was made, and it could not be paid. He renewed his efforts last Winter, and the result was a law adjusting the compensation to the weight of mail carried, which, the railroad officials admit, gives them 60 per cent more pay than they have heretofore received. Under these cir-cumstances, if the postal cars are stopped on the 1st of April, and the companies return to the old system of carrying the mati in baggage cars, they need not think to put the odium upon the Post-Office Department They will have to bear it themselves. If a few wealthy railroad corporations, out of spite, because Coogress did net give them as much money by a few thousand dollars as they demanded, delay the mails and isolate New-York from speedy postal communication with the rest of the country, the indignant people may insist that Con gress shall apply a remedy that will not be agreeable to the corporations. It has been suggested that this may take the shape of a law requiring all railroad companies to carry the mails for the compensation provided by law and in the manner prescribed by the Post-Office Depart ment, under penalty of a seizure of their roads by Gov. ernment in case of refusal. Some go even further, and demand a law which shall force the roads to carry the mails free, in consideration of the valuable franchises granted them by the people.

M. Hamon, the French painter of Loves and finishing a beautiful though sad picture of the Triste Pelage, with shadows of all ages bastening irresistibly down to meet the boat of Charon, and cross the mournful Acheron. The disaly-seen Daute and Virgil just hint from whence the cou-